A mirror etching solution is a solution of water and sulfated potash.

When applied to the electroplated surface on the back, or non-reflective surface of a mirror, the solution will effectively simulate the appearance of a tarnished or deteriorated "antique" mirror when viewed from the front of the mirror, the reflective mirror surface.

A mirror etching solution will tarnish and or deteriorate the electroplated surface on the back, or non-reflective surface of a mirror, effectively simulating the appearance of a tarnished or deteriorated "antique" mirror when viewed from the front of the mirror, the reflective mirror surface.

The effects or degree of tarnish and deterioration on the electroplated surface may be controlled by adjusting the ratio of the solution, the temperature of the solution and or the method of application of the solution.

A ratio of one teaspoon by volume of sulfated potash to one gallon of water where the solution is at room temperature and applied onto the electroplated surface on the back of a mirror will produce only a light tarnished or dulled effect when viewed from the front of the mirror, the reflective mirror surface.

A ratio of one tablespoon by volume of sulfated potash to one gallon of water where the solution is at room temperature and applied onto the electroplated surface on the back of a mirror will produce a light charcoal gray tarnished and or distressed effect when viewed from the front of the mirror, the reflective mirror surface.

A ratio of one tablespoon by volume of sulfated potash to one gallon of water heated to 140 degrees Fahrenheit and applied to the electroplated surface on the back of a mirror will produce a dark charcoal gray tarnished and or heavy distressed effect when viewed from the front of the mirror, the reflective mirror surface.

The method of application of the solution will also affect the appearance of the reflective mirror surface. There are various methods of application of the solution. Four basic methods of application are spraying, pouring, dipping and or brushing the solution onto the electroplated surface on the back of a mirror.

After the desired "antique" mirror effect is achieved and the surface of the etched electroplated surface on the back of the mirror is dry, the etched electroplated surface may be sealed with a painted protective coating.